

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-12 and 15-18 are amended, and claims 1, 5, 10 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. After entry of this Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, and 15-18 will remain pending in the present application.

#### **I. Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In connection with this objection, the Examiner indicated that claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 are now in condition for allowance. Moreover, Applicant has amended the remaining claims to depend directly or indirectly from the rewritten allowable claims. These claims (claims 2-4, 8-9, 11-13 and 17-18) are patentable for the same reasons as the independent allowable claims and for the additional features recited therein.

#### **II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-5, 8-14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Mazur *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,072,792) in view of Halonen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,487,185). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5, 10 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

Claims 2 and 8-9, as amended, depend from claim 6, which has been placed in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 3 and 4, as amended, depend from claim 7, which has been placed in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 8-9 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 17-18, as amended, depend from claim 15, which has been placed in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 12 and 13, as amended, depend from claim 16,

which has been placed in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 11-13 and 17-18 are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 8-9, 11-13 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Mazur et al. in view of Halonen are respectfully requested.

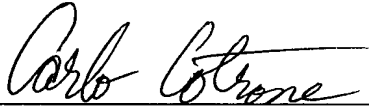
#### CONCLUSION

The rejection and objection having been addressed, Applicant requests issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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